

Group II: Claim 32, drawn to a forceps; and

Group III: Claim 33, drawn to a needle driver.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect to proceed with the examination of claims 1-23, 34 and 24-31 that are designated by the restriction requirement as being in Group I.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications directed to the unelected claims.

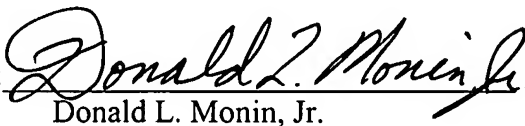
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP

Dated: September 29, 2003

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